

5-22-2007

## Daily Eastern News: May 22, 2007

Eastern Illinois University

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# the DAILY EASTERN NEWS

TUESDAY  
05.22.07

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

Volume | 93 Issue | 75

SPORTS | ELIMINATION

## No more wrestling

**Wrestling program cut because of poor academic performances, Eastern's AD says**

By Nora Maberry  
Managing Editor

A sports program that had been at Eastern for 59 seasons will not be around next year.

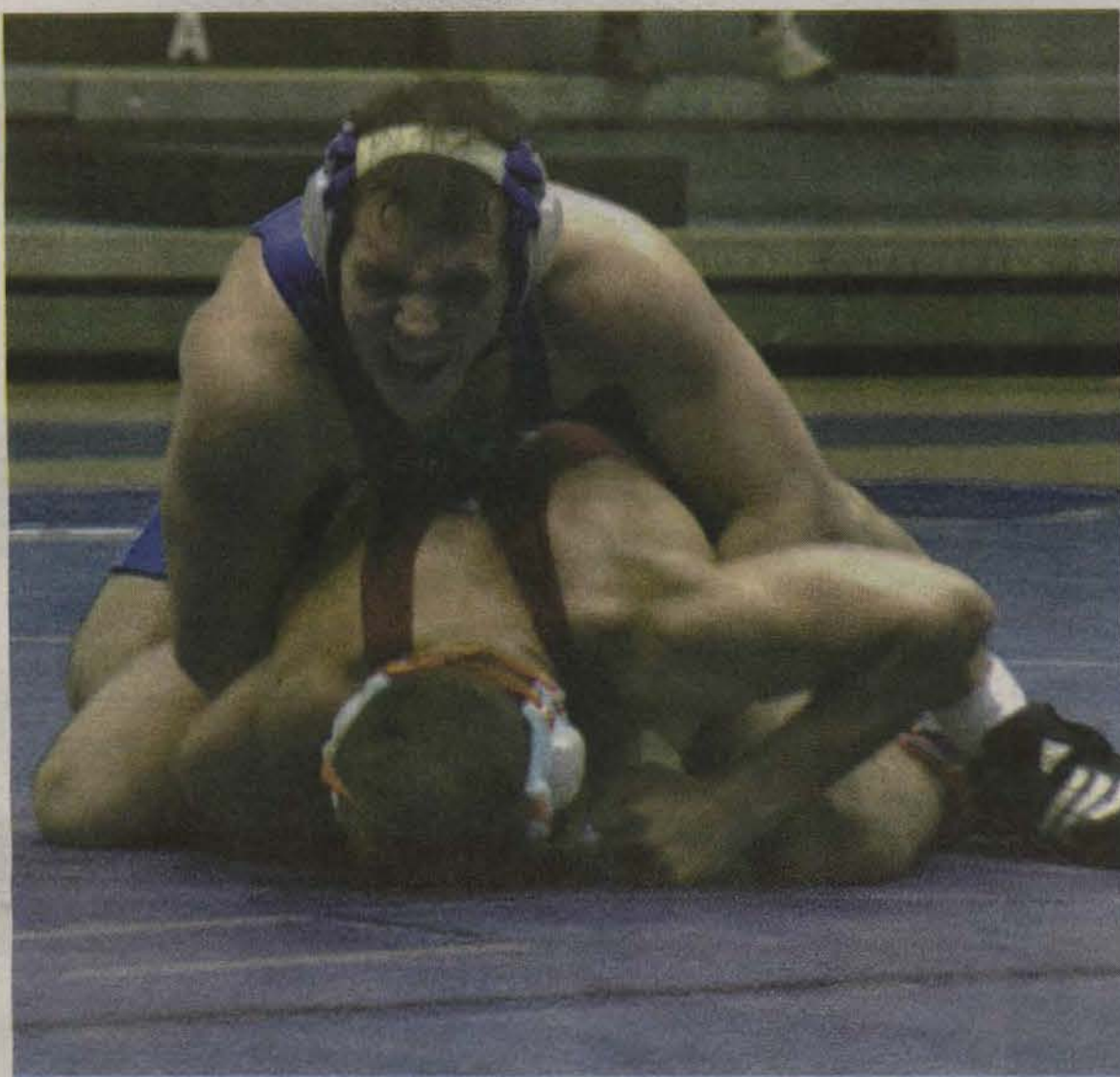
Last Thursday, Eastern's Director of Athletics Rich McDuffie announced that Eastern's wrestling program would be discontinued, effective immediately.

McDuffie cited the team's poor academic performance as the reason the team was cut.

Three years ago, the NCAA adopted a program called the Academic Progress Rate. The NCAA collects data on athletes' eligibility status, graduation rates and retention rates. According to the NCAA, the APR includes a calculation that accounts for currently enrolled student-athletes receiving financial aid based in any degree on athletics ability.

"A perfect APR is 1000; the NCAA cut off is 925," McDuffie said. "All of our teams are above 925, except wrestling which is in the 800s."

For the 2004-2005 Academic Progress Rate Institutional Report, wrestling had an APR of 851, with 26 athletes represented in the data. During the same year, Eastern's baseball team had an APR of 913, with 65 athletes represented and men's indoor track had an APR of 924 with 44 athletes represented. These teams are not



JOHN BAILEY/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Freshman wrestler Kile O' Toole fights to pin Indiana's Brandon Becker during a wrestling match this past season in the Lantz arena. Eastern's athletic department cut the wrestling program May 17.

penalized because of "size squad adjustment."

The NCAA has collected three years worth of data on Division I teams.

"We have been required to

reduce our scholarship aid to the sport," McDuffie said. "We will be penalized again and that means further reduction to scholarships."

The NCAA requires institutions that have teams with an APR below

925 to develop and implement an academic improvement plan for these teams.

» SEE ELIMINATION PAGE 5

CITY | POOL OPENING

## Pools ready for a big splash!

By Katey Mitchell  
News Editor

School's out for summer and that means that Lytle Park's pool season is about to begin.

The Lytle Park Pool, Mattoon's community pool, will be opening tomorrow for its summer season due to Mattoon schools getting out on May 22.

Park superintendent Justin Grady, who has worked for the park for 26 years, said that it is not uncommon to change dates based on school schedules. Attendance tends to be lower while students are in school, he said, because many of them tend to be involved in sports or after school activities and do not have time to go to the pool. The majority of attendance for the pool is students and parents who bring their children during the day.

The Lytle Park Pool will also end its season earlier, as well, on August 19, because school starts back up

August 20.

The change of season dates is not the only change that happened to Lytle Park Pool. The pool's admission increased for the first time in seven years, Grady said. Due to the raise in minimum wage and electric rates, in order for the pool to still be open and functioning the admission needed to be increased.

"The (Lytle Park Pool) is the second largest community pool in the state of Illinois, using over two million gallons of water," said Grady. "The electrical and maintenance costs are high enough that we needed to increase pool prices in order to keep the pool open. If I could charge everyone 25 cents for admission I would, but I got bills to pay."

Prices will increase by a dollar for both children and adults and \$25 for a season pass. The current prices are \$3 for children, \$4 for adults and \$125 for a season pass.

The Lytle Park Pool is not the



SETH MILLER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The Charleston Rotary Aquatic Center begins pumping chemicals into the pool to prepare for its summer opening.

only place that increased admission prices. Charleston's Rotary Community Aquatic Center has increased their prices by 25 cents, bringing it up to the same daily admission prices as Mattoon.

The Aquatic Center, which has

been closed for three full seasons due to renovations, will open for a full season starting Memorial Day, Monday, May 28.

» SEE POOL, PAGE 5

CAMPUS | REACTION

## People want answers

**Students, faculty express their opinions on wrestling cut**

By Adam Tedder  
Editor-in-Chief

There has been a loud uproar from the community since Eastern eliminated its wrestling program May 17.

More specially, it has been an uproar of anger, frustration and confusion.

The best example of this outrage would be a recently started Facebook group online titled "Save EIU Wrestling."

Created by Eastern student, junior English major and sophomore-level wrestler, Lenny Grodoski, the group has quickly recruited a large number of followers. The last check of group members was at 885 members and the number is continually growing.

"I'm really happy with the response with the people that have supported us," Grodoski said. Grodoski said he created the group to raise awareness about the situation and to form a place where all of the supporters could come together to attack the decision and save the wrestling program.

Grodoski does not buy the reason given by McDuffie.

"This rule is not supposed to be intended to be used towards schools like Eastern," he said. "Or schools that have a 15-man roster, like our wrestling team."

Grodoski further explained the NCAA Academic Progress Rates (APR) rule that only students on scholarship affect the APR rate, not all athletes on the team.

"Let's say our team only had 5 guys on scholarship out of a 15 person squad and one of those guys fell under the GPA requirements—that would immediately put us under 900," Grodoski said.

Eastern sophomore political science student and member of Grodoski's group, Eric Wilber, also had a lot to say about the group and the discontinuation of the wrestling program.

"My feeling is the explanation given is incomplete," Wilber said of the initial information he read on the Eastern Web site. "It was hard to tell what was going on."

It was Athletic Director Rich McDuffie who made the statement that the Eastern wrestling program would be eliminated because the wrestling program for three consecutive years have failed to meet the NCAA minimum requirement score of 925 for the APR system, variedly scoring in the 800s.

» SEE ANSWERS, PAGE 2





## A taste of Italy

SETH MILLER/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Liz Cosbey, a junior communications major, sips the wine in Klehm Hall on Tuesday evening as part of a wine course offered during the summer session. While sipping the wine, she has to distinguish certain aspects of it's taste.

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## » Answers

FROM PAGE 1

Wilber recognized from the Facebook group and the initial information release that McDuffie would be the one to contact in order to discuss the matters of the program being cut.

"I contacted McDuffie today through e-mail and he responded back," he said.

McDuffie has been under a lot of scrutiny since the decision to cut the program was made. But McDuffie himself is not surprised by this reaction, in fact, he said he knew it was coming and expected a lot of concern.

"I've responded to a lot of questions and concerns from people who are generally interested in EIU wrestling," McDuffie said.

"Some have expressed their

concern with questions like, 'Wasn't there another alternative?' or 'What is the APR?,' he said. "And I understand. There are a lot of people who are emotionally hurt over this. I'd be disappointed if there wasn't concern."

Jason Hall, assistant athletics director of compliances, said he is not surprised that the McDuffie has been in the hot seat.

"Anytime something like this happens, the person in charge is going to take the brunt of the anger and frustration," he said.

Hall himself said he was not happy to see wrestling be cut.

"I never like to see programs be cut, no one does," Hall said, "But I'll support the decision of the administration."

Gail Richard, from the Communication Disorders and Sciences Department Human Services, sees both sides of the

argument.

"I think it's always disappointing to lose a program," Richard said. "But what is most important to me is that they will honor the scholarships given to those students and we're doing that. Those students will certainly have the opportunity to get an academic degree here."

Richard said that she feels as disappointing as losing the program is that in the long run it is a fiscally responsible decision.

She thinks the decision has been so controversial because she said she thinks many people have a personal connection to the program and that it also could deal with the fact that some of those do not understand the APR system.

"I think if people had been following APR, wrestling has been in deficient for some time now," she said. "So the writing is on the walls."

## » Millions

FROM PAGE 8

winner Paul Wieck; Rookie of the Year winner Gary Niehaus, and Membership Drive Award winner Megan Sparks.

The Panther Club holds several events throughout the year to raise money to support Eastern student-athletes in addition to the Spring Fling.

Golf outings were held last summer to contribute money to the organization, as well as a raffle for a \$2,500 travel voucher.

Also included in this year's total were earnings from the Foundation Scholarship and cash raised from fund-raisers held by individual teams throughout the year.

Collins stated that funds raised by the Athletic Department go

**PAM COLLINS |**  
**EASTERN DIRECTOR OF ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT**

**"It basically benefits the entire program."**

towards benefiting Eastern student-athletes. This includes covering travel expenses, recruitment efforts and scholarships.

"It basically benefits the entire program," said Collins.

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# The New Girl at school

**Eastern recruits new woman's rugby player**

By Seth Miller  
ONLINE EDITOR

The Eastern women's rugby team started their recruitment for new players. The latest edition to their team is Diana Zultowski, a student at Red Hill High School.

Zultowski high school sports experience began in Bridgeport, Ill. She has been playing and excelling in three sports: volleyball, basketball and track. In her new position on the rugby team she will serve as the flanker.

Zultowski earned awards for participating in high school sports, earning First Team All-Little Illini Conference honors in track and field and named MVP as a junior on her basketball team. Despite these awards, Zultowski never played team rugby; however, women's rugby coach Frank Graziano was not looking to find out if she had played rugby before.

"I tend to look at athletic ability," said Graziano.

There is no real program set up for high school rugby, so Graziano has to look more towards generic skills like speed, endurance, etc.

Graziano has taken many trips before to high school events like girls basketball. Graziano said how a basketball player shoots a jump shot is specific to the sport, but how a player jumps is something to watch out for.

"We look for people who can run well and has balance, and she has that," said Graziano.

Graziano had seen Zultowski play before but had not taken an interest in her yet. "The more you take a closer look, the more skills you see," said Graziano.

Zultowski initiated the second look when she first heard of the women's rugby team. Zultowski had been interested in playing rugby for some time, she asked her father to contact Graziano so he could see her play the next time he was at her school scouting. Graziano was impressed not only with her skills but also with her work ethic and determination.

"She's a tough kid, competitive," said Graziano, "I think she'll do well."

After seeing her skills, Graziano signed Zultowski to the team. This was the best news for Zultowski who wanted to attend college in Charleston.

"I've been interested in Charleston for a while," said Zultowski, "Eastern's campus makes you feel right at home."

With Zultowski joining the team and practice beginning on August 13, the team will be off to a good start for repeating their winning 2006 season, which ended with a 9-1 record. And even though Zultowski is immediately joining an NCAA Division I rugby team, Zultowski and the other new members are not nervous at the idea.

"While there tends to be a bit of apprehension, they get comfortable," said Graziano. "I know she is excited to play."

## weatheroutlook

**TODAY**  
89° | 62°  
Mostly Sunny

**WEDNESDAY**  
89° | 68°  
Isolated Thunderstorms

**THURSDAY**  
82° | 61°  
Scattered Thunderstorms

### CAMPUS | SIGMA XI AWARD



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Mattoon High School biology teacher Rochelle Epperson, center, receives the Excellence in High School Science and Mathematics Teaching Award from Betty Smith (left), president of Eastern chapter of Sigma Xi; and Mary Anne Hanner (right), dean of the College of Sciences.

## Striving for excellence

KRISTY LAWRENCE | BIOLOGY TEACHER

### Biology teacher receives first Sigma Xi award

By Katey Mitchell  
NEWS EDITOR

It's been almost two months since Rochelle Epperson, a biology teacher at Mattoon High School, won the first Sigma Xi teaching excellence award and her co-workers still do not know about it. But to them, that is just the type of person she is.

On March 29, 2007, Epperson was awarded the Sigma Xi, EIU chapter's award for teaching excellence in high school science and math at the Sigma Xi annual banquet. Jim McGaughey, a biology professor and member of Sigma Xi, nominated Epperson earlier this year for this award, and from all the people who know her no one deserves it more.

Sigma Xi is a national scientific research society that caters towards scientists, engineers and mathematicians, and focuses on research and study in a particular field. It is a highly selective group, made by invitation only and it is based on research that has been done by the group member, said Ann Fritz, secretary of Sigma Xi and biology professor at Eastern.

Sigma Xi, nationally founded in 1886, did not have a chapter at Eastern until 1998. Yet, it was not until November 2006, eight years later, that the idea of a teaching excellence award was brought up.

Fritz said that she heard about the award at a national meeting Sigma Xi had in November. She has been involved with Sigma Xi for a while, and still no one heard about it until November, Fritz said.

In January the formal discussion on the topic were held and nomination applications went

### "[Epperson] single-handedly brought bio-technology to Mattoon High School."

out, said Betty Smith, Sigma Xi president and professor in the geology/geography department.

Some of the criteria for the nominations include: The letter of nomination made by a member of Sigma Xi, EIU chapter, and evidence that shows: excellence in teaching; active involvement in students critical thinking & problem solving; active involvement in students in the learning process; teaching appreciation for science & mathematics; and teaching science and/or mathematics at the high school level.

Epperson made a great impression on McGaughey when she took classes in the biology graduate program during summers at Eastern.

She made a real good impression on Fritz as well, since Fritz decided whom the winner was. Fritz said that one of the more memorable parts of Epperson's nomination application was the quote she had comparing her students to the scientific process. Not long after reading that, Epperson got a phone call stating she won the award.

Epperson has been a biology teacher for 25 years. She had won other awards in the area for her teaching, including: Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year, 1998; Who's Who in American Teachers, multiple years; Community Unit District #2 Recognition for Dedication to Teaching award, two years; and Excellence in Teaching awards from Eastern Illinois, 1990-97.

But to Epperson, it is not about the awards; it's about getting students interested in science.

"I love nature and science and

I just wanted to share those things with others," Epperson said.

When she first started out teaching, it was not so easy for Epperson. She had trouble getting the hang out it.

"First started out I was busy keeping my head above water, but as time went on, I learned to really love the kids and work hard to gain their love too," Epperson said.

Kristy Lawrence, a biology and zoology teacher at Mattoon High School, has worked with Epperson for 13 years and feels that Epperson is "the best, one of the most innovated teachers that has been around. She single-handedly brought bio-technology to Mattoon High School."

Lawrence said that not only do Epperson's students love her and want to continually take her, but she is also teaching college level biology to the students.

"We took a group of students to Wash U to see their biology department, because it is suppose to be pretty impressive," Lawrence recalls. "Their biology department did experiments and Shelly's kids knew how to do them already."

Although she said she is honored to have won the award, Epperson said that there are so many excellent teachers out there that do not get recognized and they need to be appreciated as well.

However, Fritz said that they were proud to have her as their first recipient for the award.

"She is full of energy and concern and care for the educational process as well as her students," Fritz said. "Kids are lucky to have her as a high school biology teacher."

ANN FRITZ | SIGMA XI SECRETARY

**"She is full of energy and concern and care for the educational process as well as her students."**

## CAMPUS

TUESDAY  
5.22.07

### campusbriefs

#### EIU bomb threat false alarm

» A bomb threat at the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union was reported on Friday, April 27, only to be a false alarm.

Classified as a specific threat, meaning a bomb has been placed somewhere within the campus and indicate the exact building or area, time of detonation, and/or reason for placement, the bomb threat was called in to 911 at approximately 8:36 p.m., said Adam Due, University police chief.

Police officers cleared out the union and did a search. After reporting that the threat was false, people were allowed to re-enter the building.

Afterwards, on Wednesday, May 2, a bomb threat procedure guide was updated on the Eastern Web site and was approved by President Lou Henken. The procedures can be seen at <http://www.eiu.edu/~auditing/IGP/policy154.html>

-By Katey Mitchell, News Editor

### COMMENTS | CORRECTIONS | EVENTS

To report any errors, local events or general suggestions for future editions please contact our news editor, **Katey Mitchell**, via:

Phone | 581-7942,  
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### » Wrestling

FROM PAGE 8

collects data from member schools and releases an annual Academic Progress Report for member schools and ranks individual programs on a 1000-point scale. The APR is calculated based on eligibility status, retention and graduation. An acceptable score is considered 925 and 1000 is perfect. The wrestling program has received a score in the 800s for the past three years.

The program has suffered penalties the past two years as a result of their academic performance and further penalties could have larger ramifications for Eastern sports as a whole. Fourth year penalties could affect Eastern's Division I classification. McDuffie stated that they wanted to wait and see if the academic standing of the squad could be improved before deciding to discontinue it; however, the low APR ratings reflect the lack of progress that has been made since the guidelines were enacted three years ago. Now with harsher sanctions a distinct possibility, he did not want to see other sports suffer as a result of one sport's rating.

Programs are subjected to contemporaneous penalties for their first three years of non-compliance, which include: scholarship reductions; loss of playing and practice time; and could eventually result in exclusion from post-season competition.

After a fourth year of falling below APR requirements, teams become subject to historical penalties which would mean all 22 sports could face losing their Division I classification.



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## ourview

## Cut causes confusion

APR.  
Wrestling.  
Elimination.  
Confused?  
Join the club.

Those three words have been swirling together since May 17's announcement that the Eastern wrestling program was being cut due to consecutive years of failures to meet the NCAA criteria of Academic Process Rates (APR).

The wrestling program was cut, according to Athletic Director Rich McDuffie, because by NCAA sanctioned rules, the possibility of a fourth consecutive year of failing to meet the 925 minimum standard for the APR, would result in a possible reclassification of the remaining 21 sports on campus.

In short terms, the NCAA

could revoke Eastern's Division I status.

That is something that could not happen.

Wrestling should not be able to affect all of the other sports and we here at the DEN agree with that.

But plain and simple, there needed to be a better and clearer explanation for why the program was cut.

Needlessly said, this is a big deal and it was handled rather briefly.

Understanding why the program was cut could have lessened the anger and confusion to those wondering about the wrestling program's sudden discontinuation.

It seems odd that there was not more discussion about the possibility of the program being

cut. If so, there would have been a lot more attention on the subject.

If it had been discussed more openly, there might not be so many wrestlers confused and shocked by the sudden news.

Perhaps if it had been discussed more openly, this whole situation could have been averted all together.

Had this been more in the spotlight, it might have motivated the wrestlers on scholarship, the only ones that affect the APR rate, to work harder on improving their grades.

In fact, even though the wrestling program had been under the minimum 925 APR rate the past three years, since the 2004-2005 NCAA Division I APR institutional results where

they stood at 851, they had been gradually increasing to 867 for this past year.

Granted, that is not enough of a change to put them over the standard bar, but there had been an improvement.

The loudest outcry for those opposing the cut has been that it is a 4-year collection of APR data that decides the fate of a program.

But McDuffie has already explained he was taking preemptive action on the situation, but there could have been a significant enough change with the last remaining year.

Eastern prides itself on offering such a wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities to students.

While we recognize the financial

difficulties a small state school has in supporting such a large number of intercollegiate athletics, we believe more consideration should be given to new ways to keep the program alive, rather than killing it because of the poor academic performance of a few students.

Maybe the NCAA should consider more individualized sanctions, rather than penalizing an entire program, or an entire athletic department based on the misplaced priorities of a minority of students.

The editorial is the majority opinion of The Daily Eastern News editorial board.

Reach the opinions editor at [DENopinions@gmail.com](mailto:DENopinions@gmail.com).

DRAWN FROM THE NEWS | DAVID PENNELL



COLUMNIST | MATT DANIELS

## A classless decision

Eastern had 22 intercollegiate athletic teams as of Thursday morning, May 17.

By mid-afternoon on Thursday, that number was 21.

Eastern's Director of Athletics Rich McDuffie decided, based on recent Academic Performance Rate results, that wrestling had to be cut as a program.

For the third straight year, Eastern's wrestling team had a score below the minimum required number of 925.

If the wrestling team had been continued, and not met the APR standards for a fourth straight year, the entire Eastern athletic department would face sanctions.

Wrestling had lost part of a scholarship as its penalty for not hitting the APR standard.

Academics, especially in today's NCAA world, has a huge role. APR

and graduation rates are numbers that athletic administrators agonize over when they are released, wondering whether their school will not meet certain standards.

This is McDuffie's reasoning for cutting the program. What an easy out to take.

Eastern's wrestling team's GPA has been in the lower one-third of all Eastern sports for the last two school years.

Still, the team's best returning wrestler for next season, 184-pounder Greg Perz, was just named to the National Wrestling Coaches Association academic All-American team. The Crystal Lake native has a 3.73 cumulative GPA in industrial technology.

Granted, that is only one out of 23 wrestlers from last year's squad. Eastern finished with a 2-13 dual record last year, hardly ideal, but Perz and senior Kenny Robertson both qualified for nationals. The team was only losing four seniors and returned 19 wrestlers, so a turnaround was in effect. Eastern's wrestling budget does not even take up \$100,000 in Eastern's overall \$8.4 million athletic budget, so money was not a concern. Eastern

still complies with Title IX and gender equity standards, so that was not a concern either.

The wrestling program had faced cuts before. In 1995, Eastern made the decision to cut wrestling and men's swimming. But the cuts were not made and both wrestling and swimming were saved. At the time, the cuts would have been made to fit in with Title IX compliance.

The classless way this decision seems to have been made is upsetting people, as well it should.

Head coach Ralph McCausland, who has given his life to Eastern and its wrestling program, was not made aware of this decision until Thursday, the day of the announcement.

McDuffie said Friday the decision to cut the program was made early last week.

How sad.

To have such a crucial decision, effecting hundreds of people (coaches, wrestlers, fans and families) made in such a short notice, is a slap in the face to anyone who is put time into Eastern's wrestling program.

McCausland, who was Eastern's

head coach for 24 years and wrestled here in the late-1970's, had to call his wrestlers and recruits and tell them the news.

Not McDuffie, the man who makes the most money of any Eastern athletic official, the one who makes the tough decisions. No, instead, he will have the man he just "reassigned" make probably some of the hardest phone calls he'll ever have to make.

McDuffie made a smart political decision to announce this once school is out and not face the wrath of the entire wrestling team, as well as from the student body, but that is a spineless way to go for the leader of Eastern's athletic department.

McCausland has been offered another position in the Eastern athletic department, but it is unclear whether he will take it or not.

I would not take a job inside Eastern's athletic department, if I were McCausland. The man is a respected coach across the nation and should be able to secure another coaching job somewhere. But I'm not McCausland, and do not know yet whether he wants to

stay in Charleston or accept a job at another school which might not have his sport in 10 years. But then again, I don't see how McCausland, a proud man, could go to work everyday and see the man who took away his job.

With the cut of wrestling because of APR performances, McDuffie has set a precedent here at Eastern. McDuffie, whose been in charge of the athletic department at Eastern since March 1997, must now cut every sport that does not sufficiently meet APR requirements.

Will he have the authority to do so? Absolutely.

But will he have the common courtesy to go about this the right way and not just make what seems to be an impulse decision?

Probably not.



Matt Daniels is a senior journalism major. He can be reached at [mwdaniels@ciu.edu](mailto:mwdaniels@ciu.edu).



» Pools

FROM PAGE 1

Expectations are hopeful from Brian Jones, Charleston director of the Parks & Recreation Department,

and Jena Bunch, Charleston aquatic facility supervisor. Last summer, with only being open for a month, the Aquatic Center had its highest daily attendance and income ever and some of the highest week totals for the first two weeks, said Jones.

Charleston's pool is not completely in the clear of change; however. Despite the increase in admission prices currently, depending on the amount of electricity used during the summer, the admission prices might still go up.

"Before we only had one filtration system, now we have two," said Jones. "Plus the use of more pumps and more lights, we added a lot of electricity items in the pool." Lytle Park Pool in Mattoon will be open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Rotary Community Aquatic Center will be open noon to 8 p.m. Monday thru Saturday and 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday. The only exception will be on opening day, Memorial Day, which is a free admission day and will be open from noon to 5 p.m.

» Elimination

FROM PAGE 1

"They were required to come up with a plan and I guess they implemented the plan but did they show up?" McDuffie said. "I understand they didn't, some did and some didn't."

Wrestling head coach Ralph McCausland urged his wrestlers to take homework on road trips and increase their grade point averages, McCausland said back in February.

"Coach McCausland could not have done any more to help grades besides actually doing the work for us," said sophomore wrestler Ed Carpenter. "Too bad a few undisciplined kids had to ruin it for him."

WHY DECISION WAS MADE

Not all the wrestlers on the squad suffered academically. Junior wrestler Greg Perz was named to the 2007 National Wrestling Coaches Association Academic All-American squad. Perez was named to the squad in 2006 and has a 3.73 cumulative GPA and had the 11th-highest GPA of the 57 wrestlers honored this year.

"He's a great student and a great wrestler," McDuffie said. "But he's a part of a group and that group has been judged. It's not my judgment, it's the NCAA's judgment."

The NCAA's judgment could include punishment for the entire athletic department, McDuffie said.

If a Division I team is cited four times the NCAA puts the team on restricted membership status, McDuffie said.

If an institution is unable to correct the problems in their program they are placed on

RICH MCDUFFIE | DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

"If they had a 925 APR we wouldn't be here today. I read somewhere where it said men's and women's swimming is next and that is absolutely not true. Men's swimming is funded no better than swimming and they do better than wrestling academically and competitively."

correspondent membership and then the entire program loses all membership privileges in the NCAA, including postseason play, McDuffie added.

"You face a decision," McDuffie said. "Do you potentially put the entire athletic department in jeopardy? I don't think so."

WHEN DECISION WAS MADE

The decision to cut the wrestling team was made early last week, McDuffie said. McCausland was made aware of the decision on Thursday morning, hours before the news was released.

McDuffie waited to make the final decision until the NCAA released its three-year report and Spring semester grades were released.

"Neither of them was very pretty," he said.

The wrestling team had a spring GPA of 2.63, the second-lowest of an Eastern sport.

Men's basketball had the lowest GPA at 2.60.

"I really think that the GPAs issue was just an excuse to get rid of us," said Kenny Robertson, a three-time qualifier for the national championships during his career at Eastern. Robertson used his last year of athletic eligibility this past season.

The decision was made by McDuffie and Eastern President Lou Hencken and had been discussed for a few months, McDuffie said.

Eastern's Intercollegiate Athletic Board was made aware that wrestling would be cited for a low APR but the decision to cut the sport was not discussed with them, McDuffie said.

When McDuffie addressed Faculty Senate during the Spring semester, wrestling's academic performance was discussed, but they were not involved in the decision to cut the sport.

Hencken said he was generally opposed to cutting sports but felt the decision was necessary.

"We must look at what we believe is in the best interest of the university, and the overall wrestling team continues to have a low APR rating with no signs of improvement," Hencken said.

McDuffie nor Hencken told the wrestling team the program was in jeopardy of being cut because of their academic performance, McDuffie said.

McDuffie said Friday he was unsure what McCausland had told the team but was sure he had made it clear to them that their academics needed to improve.

REACTION TO DECISION

The decision took the entire wrestling team by surprise, Robertson said. "It is and was a kick in the nuts," he said. "Especially after busting my ass for five years for Eastern, trying to make Eastern look good and having school pride." Robertson said there was no discussion of the team being cut during the school year.

Carpenter agreed that the decision came as a surprise.


McDuffie said the decision was not based on financial reasons and was made because of the teams low APR score. "If they had a 925 APR we wouldn't be here today," McDuffie said. "I read somewhere where it said men's and women's swimming is next and that is absolutely not true. Men's swimming is funded no better than wrestling and they do better than wrestling academically and competitively."

McCausland declined comment last Thursday. "I need time to decompress," he said.

Eastern has offered McCausland a job in some other capacity, but the athletic department is unsure what the job will be, McDuffie said.

"We just need our program back because it is what most of us live for," Carpenter said.

2005-2006 APR RATE	
SPORT	APR
WOMEN'S SOCCER	992
WOMEN'S X-COUNTRY	992
MEN'S GOLF	991
MEN'S TENNIS	987
VOLLEYBALL	986
SOFTBALL	976
WOMEN'S TRACK(I)	975
WOMEN'S B-BALL	974
WOMEN'S GOLF	974
MEN'S X-COUNTRY	972
WOMEN'S TRACK(O)	971
WOMEN'S SWIMMING	960
MEN'S SWIMMING	958
WOMEN'S TENNIS	947
MEN'S B-BALL	946
MEN'S SOCCER	944
FOOTBALL	935
BASEBALL	933
MEN'S TRACK(O)	933
MEN'S TRACK (I)	920
WRESTLING	867



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Ticket Office.....10:00am-3:00pm  
University Food Court.....7:30am-2:00pm  
Java Beanery & Bakery.....7:30am-2:00pm

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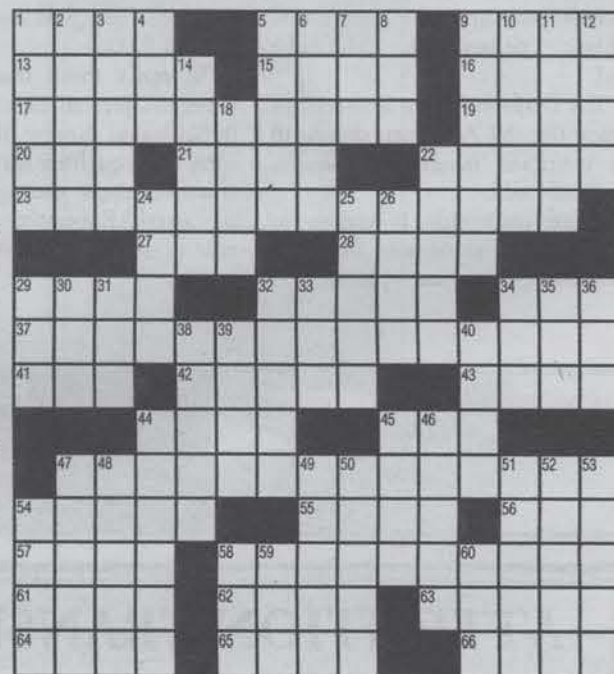
- Like some 1930s design, informally
- Mafia biggie
- Light from a lightning bug, e.g.
- Gay (W.W. II plane)
- Worm's place on a fishing line
- Make over
- 3" x 5" aids for speakers
- Out of control
- Take to court
- Formerly, old-style
- Sky-blue
- Corporate office staffers
- WNW's opposite
- Elevator company
- Shut loudly
- Des Moines native
- ET's craft
- Identify exactly ... or a hint to this puzzle's theme
- Lumberjacking tool
- Edgar Poe
- It might be slapped after a good joke

- Writer Stanley Gardner
- New Year's
- Fonzie's girl on "Happy Days"
- Surrenders
- Leo's symbol
- Ph.D., e.g.: Abbr.
- End- (ultimate buyer)
- Head of a cabal
- Doe's mate
- Tehran's land
- Add liquor to, as punch
- Roly-
- Mishmash
- "\_ of the D'Urbervilles"

**DOWN**

- Basic religious belief
- Boredom
- In secret language
- Encouragement for a matador
- Deep gap
- Main artery
- Pea holder
- 10-4's

- Barely injures in passing
- Cousin of a monkey
- Stinks
- Regained consciousness
- Figure skating jumps
- Indian of the northern Plains
- Getting on in years
- Record sent to a record producer
- Hopeless, as a situation
- all-time high
- Site of mineral waters
- Illumination unit
- Dined
- Bit of land in the sea
- Birds' feather
- Vase
- Enemy
- Last number in a countdown
- Drug agents: Var.
- May of "The Beverly Hillbillies"
- Scraped (out)
- Cabinet department since 1977
- E.P.A. subj.



- Barn toppers
- Sauce in un ristorante
- Perfect
- Arm bones
- Omens
- Murphy who's heard in "Shrek"
- Stinks
- Meanies
- Edge
- Edge
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# A day at the track



Senior Whitney Bergan of Illinois Valley Central throws the shotput Friday afternoon at O'Brien Stadium. Bergan threw her shotput 34'10.25."



Freshman Amanda Schreck races to celebrate with her 4x800 relay partner senior Hanna Hottle. The girls won state for the 4x800 for Monmouth Roseville high school with a time of 9:35.93.



Senior long jumper Meagn Woodworth of Unity high school attempts a long jump Friday afternoon at O'Brien stadium. Woodworth would go onto finish in 10th place in Class long jump with a jump of 17'05.75."



Senior high jumper Laura Morris of Mahomet high school sits on the track after missing her last attempt at 5'5" causing her to not advance any further in the high jump finals. Morris would tie for 6th in the high jump.



Members of Walter Lutheran high school 4x100 relay celebrate after taking first in the final Saturday afternoon at O'Brien Stadium Saturday afternoon.

**Photos by Amir Prellberg on May 18 and 19**



## SPORTS

TUESDAY  
5.22.07

## scoreboard

## PANTHER SPORTS SCHEDULE

## TRACK &amp; FIELD

May 25 @ Bowling Green Kelme  
Tournament | All-Day Columbia, Mo.

## TRACK &amp; FIELD

May 26 @ NCAA Regional  
Tournament | All-Day Columbia, Mo.

## Panther Club meets \$1m goal

Initial monetary goal  
exceeded for auction

By David Pennell  
Sports Editor

The million-dollar goal set by the Eastern Illinois Athletic Department Panther Club was exceeded this year at the organization's Bleed Blue Bash.

The Club set their annual fund-raising goal at \$1 million but was able to raise \$1,054,819 as a result of last month's events.

Eastern director of athletic development, Pam Collins, stated that the goal was exceed despite having fewer workers this year. She stated that new incentives for membership and beginning fund-raising activities early in January allowed the club to raise as much funds as they did. New incentives this year included getaway certificates for two night stays at locations across the country, and Tony Romo Jerseys offered for new members at the \$200 level.

The annual Spring Fling was also a major source of income for the group. Collins credited the volunteers, staff, and individuals who attended the activities with reaching their ambitious fund-raising goal.

The evening's events included a live auction in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Grand Ballroom, which raised \$54,000, nearly \$20,000 more than last year's total.

Collins also praised the Spring Fling committee and the roughly 90 workers who made up the eight teams participating in this year's drive.

Teams set individual cash goals and were rated on how much money they took in. The top three teams were awarded prizes.

In addition to the top money making teams, several other Panther Club members were honored with awards at this year's Bleed Blue Bash. Workers who were able to raise more than \$600 in new funds, meeting their cash goals, were awarded special gifts at the night's festivities. Also recognized were: Fund Drive MVP Ed Corley; Panther Club Board of Director's winner Mike Moncel; Halftime Award winner Mark Kesler; Big Catch Award

## NCAA | ACADEMIC STANDARDS

# 21 of 22 sports meet academic requirements

## Wrestling program only sport to fall short of NCAA standards

By David Pennell  
Sports Editor

The NCAA Academic Progress Report for Eastern athletics this year shows that 21 of Eastern's 22 intercollegiate sports have met the NCAA's academic standards with several earning perfect scores.

Wrestling was the only sport that did not meet or exceed the standards.

The failure of the Wrestling program to meet the NCAA criteria was the deciding factor in the decision last Thursday to discontinue the program, Athletic Director Rich McDuffie said.

However, the lowest overall team GPA for Spring 2007 was not wrestling, but men's

basketball.

Gail Richard explained that the APR rating is based on academic performance over several years and is not significantly affected by one semester's grades. This, said Richard, makes it easier to track academic progress and does not penalize a school or program for having one bad semester.

Also, only students who are on scholarship to compete in their sport are included in the APR ratings. Teams often have several walk-on members or other recruits not on scholarship that are factored into team GPA, but not considered in the NCAA ratings. This ensures that students who receive financial aid are taking their academic success seriously, and properly representing their institution.

An outpouring of emotion resulted from Thursday's decision, although Rich McDuffie said he was not overly surprised by the negative reaction he has received so far. He stated that he had anticipated a number of people would

be emotionally upset and angered at the loss of opportunity for collegiate athletes at Eastern. McDuffie remained steadfast in his reasoning for cutting the program; however, citing the poor academic performance of the team as a whole and its overall affect on Panther athletics.

Around five years ago, the NCAA began the process of academic reform to ensure that education and obtaining a degree remained the priority of all student-athletes. Of all competitors in NCAA sports, only a very small percentage goes on to pursue professional careers as athletes. The NCAA established the academic criteria to ensure that student-athletes were graduating with the skills they need to compete in the workplace, not just on the field.

The new NCAA standards were enacted about three years ago with feedback and contributions from NCAA member schools. The organization » SEE WRESTLING, PAGE 3

## TRACK | IHSA FINALS



AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior Caitlin Roberts of York high school attempts her first try at 5 foot, 4 inches during Saturday afternoons' IHSA Girl's State Track and Field finals in O'Brien Stadium. Roberts would go on to finish tied for sixth place for the high jump.

## IHSA Girls Track runs well

### State finals go over well with competitors and coaches

By Amir Prellberg  
Photo Editor

"Runners, take your mark" was a phrase repeated through the P.A. at O'Brien Stadium Friday and Saturday afternoon. The 2007 Illinois High School Association Girl's State Track Championship was held on Eastern's campus May 18 and 19.

Over 590 high schools from all over the state of Illinois flocked to Charleston to participate in the track championship.

Sherrard High School took the Class A championship while the Lady Broncos from Barrington High School in Barrington won the AA championship.

Junior sprinter Toni Graham from Conant High School in Hoffman Estates participated in four events this past weekend and earned

medals in three of those four events. She missed first place in the 100-m dash by a hundredth of a second.

When asked what she needs to do in the off-season to take the title next year she responded, "It's just going to take hard work."

Even though Graham did not win the 100-m dash final she was full of smiles after the race and was not unhappy about her performance.

Throughout the competition emotions were high among all competitors. Over 3,000 girls competed in the track events this weekend with each one of them wanting to perform the best they could.

Senior high jumper Caitlin Roberts of York High School came to the state competition not knowing how she would finish but was hoping improve on last year. The biggest thing she had to deal with right before state was her approach.

According to her and her coach, John Debowiecki, she changed her approach to a 5-step approach a week before state finals.

"High jump is definitely a form sport and with her full approach she wasn't controlling her body," Debowiecki said. "Using the 5-step approach allows [Roberts] having more control of her body."

Unfortunately, all those drills and polymetric training that Roberts had gone through to improve her jump was not enough for her to win state at high jump.

The striking thing about Roberts was her attitude during the whole event. She constantly had a smile on her face and just appeared to be happy to be there.

Roberts looked as if she enjoyed every moment of her competition even after missing her final attempt at 5'5."

The spirit and enthusiasm that Roberts had is something every athlete can look up too.

Roberts will be attending Illinois State University next fall and pursuing a career in education but she is unsure if she will continue her track career into college.